



SPECIAL PROJECTS/INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

ALIGNING BOARD PRIORITIES WITH OPTIMIZED RESOURCES

PEOPLE FOCUSED. PERFORMANCE DRIVEN.

Goal Statement

To effectively serve the residents of Leon County by providing leadership, coordination and assistance to divisions to facilitate the delivery of services consistent with Board policy. This will ensure that divisions receive the resources, guidance, and support needed to provide superior services in a cost effective and efficient manner.

Strategic Initiatives/Support Highlights

Economy

- Leon County worked with the City of Tallahassee and the Blueprint 2000 Intergovernmental Agency to begin planning for infrastructure projects to be conducted using the Blueprint 2020 Infrastructure Sales Tax extension. Together, the County, City, and Blueprint began to identify opportunities to advance-fund certain high-priority projects and these that may qualify for non-local funding to leverage local sales tax dollars.

Quality of Life

- The County and City Commissions jointly submitted a U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER grant application for the Southside Connectivity Completion Project, a \$23.9 million project that will enhance multimodal transportation connections to, from, and around the South City area.

Contact Us

(850) 606-5300
www.LeonCountyFL.gov/SpecialProjects

ADVOCATING FOR LEON COUNTY'S LEGISLATIVE INTERESTS

- Through Community Legislative Dialogue Meetings, Leon County continued to partner with stakeholders throughout the community to identify legislative items of shared significance. Leon County partnered with organizations such as the Florida Association of Counties, Leon County's state and federal legislative delegations, the City of Tallahassee, institutions of higher education, the United Way of the Big Bend, and others to identify these shared issues and to seek opportunities to leverage financial, technical, and human capital to draw attention to the community priorities at the federal, state and local levels.
- Staff prepared, guided and implemented the County's 2015 state and federal legislative priorities to leverage funding for local projects and preempt legislation that threatened local decision-making.
- During the 2015 regular and special legislative sessions, staff produced weekly briefings (the Capitol Update) to keep the Board of County Commissioners and senior staff apprised of legislative developments that would impact the community.



Did You Know

Leon County aggressively seeks state and federal grant funding to support County projects and initiatives. At the start of Fiscal Year 2015, Leon County pledged approximately \$625,000 in local funds to leverage over \$8.9 million of state and federal funding for County projects – a leveraging ratio of over 14 to 1.

2015 LEON COUNTY TOP CONGRESSIONAL PRIORITIES

Capital Circle Southwest
Classification: Transportation
Budget: \$119.1 million
This project is for the widening of Capital Circle SW from two lanes to six lanes from north of Orange Avenue to Crawfordville Road, a distance of approximately six miles. A portion of this roadway is currently part of Florida's Strategic Intermodal System (SIS), and once complete, the entire segment will be designated as a SIS facility. Reconstruction of this six mile segment of Capital Circle Southwest will improve access to the Tallahassee Regional Airport, businesses, and communities located in the southwest quadrant of Leon County, and will reduce emergency evacuation clearance times.

Woodville Highway
Classification: Transportation
Budget: \$26.6 million
This project is for the widening of Woodville Way from two lanes to four lanes from Paul Russell Road to Capital Circle. Leon County and the City of Tallahassee have adopted a strategy to spur economic growth in the southern area of the city/county with a combination of roadway improvements, beautification, highway sector planning efforts, growth management, and economic incentives. Woodville Highway also serves as one of the primary evacuation routes from the central coastal panhandle.

Woodville Sewer Project
Classification: Water Quality
Budget: \$3 million
This project is for the design of a sewer system to provide sewer services to approximately 1,500 properties located within the Woodville rural area of Leon County. These homes are located upstream to Wakulla Springs and threaten one of the world's largest, and most ecologically significant deepest, freshwater springs. Providing sewer service will reduce the use of septic tanks that have severely impacted the health of Wakulla. The State of Florida has acquired more than half of the 6,500 acre buffer zone around Wakulla Springs, acknowledging the importance of preserving this natural habitat.

PEOPLE FOCUSED. PERFORMANCE DRIVEN.

2015 LEON COUNTY TOP STATE PRIORITIES

KEY POLICY ISSUES

Protection of State Workforce
Classification: Local Economy
OPPOSE: Additional reductions to state employee benefits. State workers comprise a substantial percentage of Leon County's population contributing to our community, economy and diversity. Protecting the jobs of these workers from privatization and advocating for fair wages has always been a top priority of the Board during the legislative cycle. Leon County opposes any additional reductions to state employee benefits and encourages the Legislature to study the economic impact of FRS and health insurance reform.

Communication Service Tax
Classification: State/Local Economy
SUPPORT: Legislation that is revenue neutral, simplifies the collection of the current tax and enhances the stability and reliability as an important revenue source for local government.

The Communication Service Tax (CST) is a tax on the retail sales of communications services, which include voice, data, audio, video, and any other information including cable (video) services. The proceeds from the tax are transferred to county and municipal governments, the Public Education Capital Outlay and Debt Service Trust Fund, and the state's General Revenue Fund. Since CST revenue funds the Public Education Capital Outlay program, the CST is also an issue for the County's community partners like Leon County Schools, Florida State University, Florida A&M University, and Tallahassee Community College.

Tallahassee - Leon County Enterprise Zone
Classification: State/Local Economy
SUPPORT: The renewal of the Florida Enterprise Zone Program and encourage the broader state definition of return on investment to include property valuation increase and the revitalization of a community.

The Florida Enterprise Zone Program is a vital tool for private investment and job creation providing state tax incentives to businesses and residents located in the zone. The Florida Enterprise Zone Act that enables the Tallahassee-Leon County Enterprise Zone (EZ) is due to sunset December 31, 2015 unless the Legislature renews the program.

PEOPLE FOCUSED. PERFORMANCE DRIVEN.